

FROM SOUTH BEND, IND.

We often see reports, in our church paper, of the generosity and esteem of members to their pastors and families, and I wish to say through the same medium, that the members of the South Bend church are second to none in these respects, nor in the management of a surprise.

On the evening of December 22, after services I noticed that the congregation dispersed more rapidly than usual, but did not think much about it as I was detained by brother John Miller, who seemed to be more chatty than usual, and as he was going my way, when we came to my home he invited himself to stop in as he thought Sister Miller was waiting for him there. After entering the house a light was turned up and there to my surprise, I saw nearly all of my congregation in the parlor. It seemed rather strange that their pure minds should all be stirred up to call at once and at such an unusual hour, but we suspected that something was all right. After chatting a short time Sister Frame arose, and in her usual pleasing manner, in behalf of the church, presented me with a handsome suit of clothes; and during the ever joyous season of gift bestowing, wife and daughter were, also, remembered with elegant and beautiful presents. Brother and sister Daniel Miller presented wife with a beautiful dress; and for all these things we are very grateful to our dear brethren and sisters, and more especially for the love thus shown, and believing that our Heavenly Father is as much pleased as we are, their reward will be from him.

JESSE CALVERT.

South Bend, Ind.

FROM JOHNSTOWN, PA.

Brother Haskins commenced a series of revival services in the Johnstown church during the latter part of December, which are still in progress at the present date, with increasing interest and attendance. During this time, there were special Evangelist services held by a noted Evangelist in the largest sister congregation in our city, besides other counteracting influences of a special nature; yet, our beloved pastor by his zeal and earnestness for the cause of the Master, has carried the work successfully through all these weeks with unabated interest. One of the marked features of our meetings is the deep spirituality that prevails at each service. The Lord has blessed our pastor's untiring labors among his own flock this season, as well as in other fields.

Last night we were permitted to behold a most touching scene, as the oldest and

the youngest persons, who have made confession during these services, were led, the one following the other, down into the baptismal waters. An old, gray-haired grandfather, 66 years of age, and a beautiful, sweet, little girl of 10 years. How marvelous the loving influence of our Savior, who can thus unite the extremes of life in the one great purpose of glorifying His name. Thus far, seventeen have united with the church by baptism, three by relation, with others awaiting baptism. We are sorry to record that a cloud of sadness has fallen upon our congregation on account of the sudden death of a daughter of brother and sister Levi Ripple. A most loving and estimable young girl, just budding into womanhood, whose remains we laid to rest to-day in Grandview Cemetery. She gave her heart to Christ and was buried with Him in baptism but a few weeks ago. And, already she rests with Him in glory. All our hearts go out in sympathy with the fond parents, brothers and sisters, who have been so suddenly bereft of one so loving, kind and good. And yet there is much reason for rejoicing on account of the beautiful evidences given as the end approached of her unfaltering faith and trust and glorious anticipation of the joy awaiting her in that realm of which the portal is death.

ALBERT TRENT.

Westmont, Jan 24.

FROM M'ALLISTERVILLE, PA.

I thank you, Brother Gnagey, for giving me permission to talk about missions through the EVANGELIST. We need implements of warfare. It grieves me that we can not have our books of music, and other essentials for advancing our church. My work would be easier and more effectual.

The interest here is good and growing. We are having crowded houses and perfect order each evening. The Christians of other denominations are assisting. I baptized one on Monday. Since that three more have made application for baptism.

MARY M. STERLING.

FROM AVON, IDAHO.

Brother W. W. Pullan came here on December 23 and preached 18 soul cheering sermons. We were all built up so we can go forth to do work for the Master. Several were almost persuaded to become Christians but not quite. We hope and pray for an ingathering of souls next spring when Brother Pullan is to be with us again. We ask the prayers of the brotherhood in our behalf.

B. W. GRAYBILL.

JESUS healeth all thine iniquities.

THE SABBATH.

'Read at one of the K. C meetings at Burns' Chapel, by RETTA BRIGHT]

Sabbath is a word of Hebrew origin, meaning simply rest, cessation from labor. By usage it came to be the name of the day of rest. It commemorates not only the creation of the world, but a still greater event, the completion of the work of atonement by the resurrection of Christ; and as he rose from the dead on the day after the Jewish Sabbath, that day of his resurrection has been observed by Christians ever since.

The change appears to have been made at once, and as is generally believed, under the direction of the "Lord of the Sabbath."

On the same day, the first day of the week, he appeared among his disciples; and on the next recurrence of the day he was again with them, and revealed himself to Thomas.

From I Cor. 11 : 20 ; 14 : 23, 40, it appears that the disciples in all places were accustomed to meet statedly to worship and to celebrate the Lord's supper; and from I Cor. 16 : 1, 2, we learn that these meetings were on the first day of the week. The early Christian fathers refer to the first day of the week as time set apart for worship, and to the transfer of the day on account of the resurrection of the Saviour. The commandment "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy," is worthy of its place in the decalogue; and its observance is of fundamental importance to society, which without it would fast relapse into ignorance, vice and ungodliness.

Its very existence on earth, by the ordinance of God, proves that there remains an eternal Sabbath in heaven, of which the "blest repose" of the day of God is an earnest to those who rightly observe it.

The chief obligation of the Sabbath expressed in the law, is to sanctify it. It is sanctified by necessary works of charity, by prayers, praises, and thanksgivings, by the public and private worship of God, by the study of his word, by tranquility of mind, and by meditation on moral and religious truth in its bearings on the duties of life and the hope of immortality. The other requirement of the law is rest. "Thou shalt not do any work." The ordinary business of life is to be wholly laid aside, both for the sake of bodily and mental health, and chiefly to secure the quiet and uninterrupted employment of the sacred hours for religious purposes. The spirit of the law clearly forbids all uses of the day which are worldly, such as amusements, journeys, etc., whereby one fails to keep the day holy himself or hinders others in doing so.

"Remember the Sabbath day to sanctify it."